

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OIC-04 SY-04 NEA-14 DRC-01 /171 W

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P R 101231Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4031

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9434

CINCPAC ALSO PASS POLAD

E. O. 11652: DECLAS 9/30/74

TAGS: OCON, SEATO

SUBJ: SEATO: 19TH COUNCIL MEETING

REF : A. STATE 068011

B. BANGKOK 6668

C. STATE 103047

D. BANGKOK 8618

1. ALL COUNCIL REPS AT MAY 30 MEETING CONVEYED AGREEMENT TO HOLDING 19TH COUNCIL MEETING IN NEW YORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH UNGA. PER REFTEL C, US PROPOSED SEPTEMBER 27 FOR MEMBERS' CONSIDERATION. SECGEN AGAIN MADE PITCH FOR FORMAL MEETING, LASTING ONE DAY OR DAY AND A HALF, ON GROUNDS THAT COUNCIL WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ADDRESS AND DECIDE SOME "FORMAL" MATTERS. AT SAME TIME SECGEN STATED THAT HE WOULD ENVISION TAKING ONLY THREE OR FOUR SECRETARIAT STAFF WITH HIM FOR MEETING. ACTING US COUNCIL REP
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REPLIED THAT, DUE TO BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS, WE WERE INTENDING

TO HOLD A LESS STRUCTURED COUNCIL MEETING THAN LAST YEAR,
THE DETAILS OF WHICH WOULD BE PROVIDED LATER.

2. IN VIEW RECENTLY MANIFESTED THAI SENSITIVITY RE SEATO,
AS REPORTED REFTTEL D, WHICH RELATES TO OUR OVERALL RELATIONS
VIS-A-VIS THAILAND, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD NOT BE PRUDENT
AT THIS TIME TO GIVE THAIS ANY FURTHER INDICATION OF US
LOSS OF INTEREST IN SEATO. THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE THAT WE
SHOULD NOW PLAN ON HOLDING FORMAL ALL-DAY MEETING IN LIEU
OF HALF-DAY MEETING MERELY CONSISTING OF INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF
VIEWS FOLLOWED BY A LUNCHEON AS PREVIOUSLY ENVISAGED.

3. EMBOFF MET WITH SEATO SECRETARIAT AFTER LAST COUNCIL REPS
MEETING TO DISCUSS TYPE OF MEETING WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO
BOTH US AND SEATO. ASSISTANT TO SECGEN INFORMED EMBOFF JUNE 7
THAT SEGEN WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO FOLLOWING FORMULATION:

- A. NO SEPARATE PWG OR COUNCIL REPS MEETINGS IN NEW YORK,
- B. NO REPRODUCTION FACILITIES WOULD BE PROVIDED; ALL
NECESSARY DOCUMENTS WOULD BE FINALIZED IN BANGKOK AND
SENT TO MEETING SITE IN NEW YORK,
- C. SUBSTANTIVE PORTIONS OF AGENDA WOULD BE LIMITED TO
 - 1) EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MATTERS AFFECTING TREATY AREA,
 - 2) EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON RE-ORGANIZED SEATO AND 3)
DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS, AND
- D. PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF RECORD OF MEETING WOULD
BE DONE AT SEATO HQ BANGKOK FOLLOWING MEETING.

4. SECGEN WOULD LIMIT ENTOURAGE TO ONLY THREE SECRETARIAT
STAFF IF US COULD ARRANGE TO TAPE-RECORD MEETING AND PROVIDE
ONE STENO-TYPIST TO AID IN RECORDING MEETING, AS WELL AS
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY FOR HIS USE.

5. THIS PLAN FOR MINIMUM SECRETARIAT SUPPORT STAFF FROM BOTH
SEATO AND US ELIMINATING NEED FOR REPRODUCTION FACILITIES SHOULD
DRASTICALLY REDUCE USG HOST EXPENSES OVER LAST YEAR'S MEETING.
INASMUCH AS MEETING WILL LAST ONLY ONE DAY, WE WOULD
SUGGEST THAT, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, USUN CONFERENCE ROOM BE MADE
AVAILABLE ON SEPTEMBER 27, THEREBY OBTAINING NEED TO RENT SPACE.

6. SINCE FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS WILL PROBABLY BE HELD ANNUALLY
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IN NEW YORK IN CONJUNCTION WVPH UNGA, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT
IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO ROTATE CHAIRMANSHIP IN ORDER
CONVEY SOLIDARITY RE SEATO MEMBERSHIP. IF THIS WERE CASE,
NEW ZEALAND WOULD BE IN LINE TO HOST MEETING THIS FALL.
WE WOULD WELCOME AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON'S ESTIMATE WHETHER
NZ WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE THE CHAIR.

7. COUNCIL REPS FROM OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES HAVE REMINDED US

OF DISAPPOINTMENT LAST SEPTEMBER THAT SECRETARY UNABLE ATTEND SEATO COUNCIL. WE ASSUME TIMING CONSIDERATIONS REF C INCLUDED SECRETARY'S CALENDAR AND COMMITMENTS. MAY WE INDICATE INFORMALLY THAT, BARRING UNFORESEEABLE EVENTUALITIES, WE EXPECT SECRETARY TO ATTEND SEPTEMBER 27 COUNCIL MEETING?

8. WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT SEC GEN, AS IN PAST, DESIRES TO CALL ON THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY AND THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL MEETING. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT AT VERY LEAST SECRETARY AND SECDEF RECEIVE SEC GEN. CALL ON PRESIDENT WOULD ALSO BE MOST USEFUL, IF POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE, SINCE SUNTHORN IS THAI AND RTG IS EVER ALERT TO ANY INDICATION WE ARE DOWNGRADING SEATO OR OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THAILAND.

9. DEPARTMENT SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT GVN SHOULD BE INVITED TO ATTEND MEETING OR DESIGNATE OBSERVER.

10. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS SOONEST, SO WE ARE ADEQUATELY PREPARED TO DISCUSS COUNCIL MEETING AT NEXT SESSION OF COUNCIL REPS JUNE 25. KINTNER

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